

KIDS
DISCOVER

Culture

Expressions Around the World



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UNDERSTANDING CULTURE

Imagine that you could take a trip around the world. What types of people do you think you would meet? Would they look like you and talk like you? Would they share the same beliefs and values that you do, and care about the same things?

The world is full of many different people and many different cultures. A culture is a way of life shared by members of a group. Let's look at what makes up a culture, and then we can begin our trip around the world!

Cultures in Communities

In the United States, people of many cultures often live together in a community. Their differences help to make the community diverse, with many different ideas. When people live together in the same community, they can easily share parts of their cultures, such as food or music.

Written Stories

To keep culture alive over time, people write stories. Legends are stories about people and events that are told as true – though no one knows for sure about all the facts. The legend of Johnny Appleseed tells about a real person, John Chapman. He planted apple trees across the United States. The legend says he walked barefoot and wore a tin pot for a hat.



Music and Dance

Music and dance are important parts of a culture. The *gato* is a folk dance from Argentina. The name comes from the Spanish word for "cat" because the dancers move like cats.

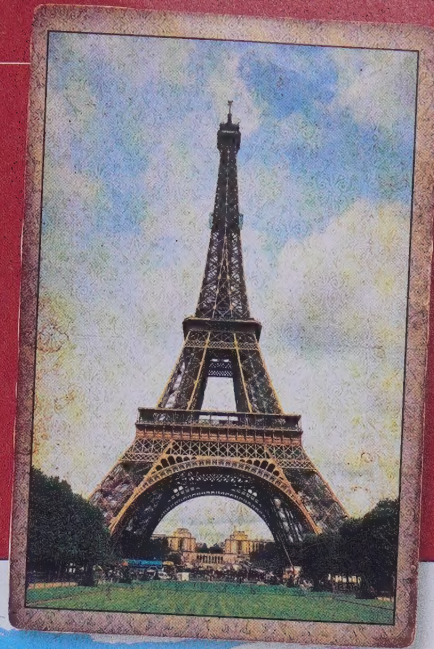
Storytelling

People share their culture by telling stories. Different cultures have different stories. In West Africa, people tell stories about Anansi the Spider, who created the Sun, moon, and stars.



... Art and Architecture

People in every culture use art to express what is important to them. Different cultures have different types of paintings, sculptures, and buildings. The Eiffel Tower in Paris is a symbol of French culture. A symbol is an object that stands for an idea.



THINK PIECE!

Even people from thousands of years ago had different cultures.

How might cultures have stayed the same over time? How might they have changed, and why?



EUROPE

ASIA

PACIFIC
OCEAN

AFRICA

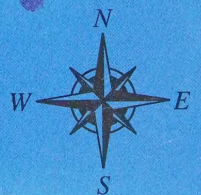
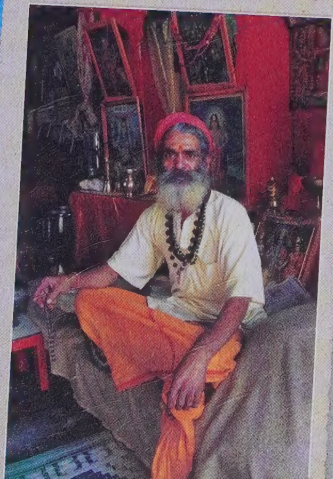
Religion

Religion is a part of culture, too. People have special places where they go to worship, or pray. Hinduism (HIN-doo-ihzz-uhm) is a common religion in India. Hindu priests live at Hindu temples.

AUSTRALIA



ANTARCTICA



Greetings from

NORTH AMERICA

The first stop on our trip is not very far at all. In fact, the continent of North America is home to the United States. If you flew south, you would hit the Sonoran Desert and then the green mountains of Mexico. If you flew north, you would see the mountains, valleys, and lakes of Canada. You might also see a lot of snow!

All three countries of North America share some of the same languages, religions, and food. But each country has its own customs, or ways of doing things.

↓ **People in Canada** like to play hard, too! Ice hockey is the national winter sport. It is part of everyday culture.



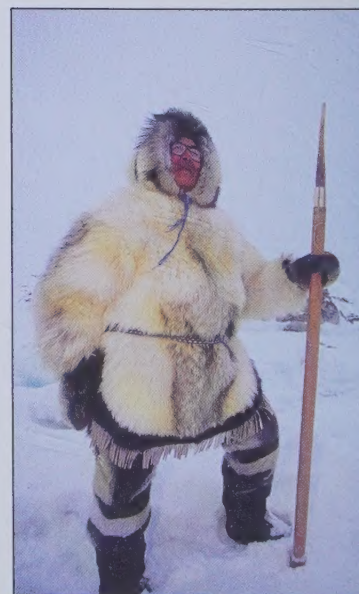
Canada



↑ **Even though their** country has some cold winters, Canadians love the outdoors.

They work overtime to protect and preserve their forests, lakes, and wild animals.

→ **The Inuit are native** people who live in northern Canada. Their culture is a mix of modern and traditional ways. The Inuit may wear heavy fur clothing to stay warm in freezing temperatures. Some Inuit use sled dogs to get around on the snow. Others use snowmobiles.



ERICA



Mexico

↑ People in Mexico celebrate a holiday called the Day of the Dead. It is a time when family and friends come together to remember loved ones who have died.



↑ **Cinco de Mayo** is another holiday celebrated in Mexico. People have parades and parties to proudly remember a day in history when the Mexican army won a difficult battle.



↑ Craftspeople in Oaxaca (wa-HA-ka), Mexico, are known for their wood-carving tradition, or practice. Many carve animals and other figures out of wood and paint them in bright colors. The carvings are popular pieces of Mexican folk art.



United States

↑ The United States is a nation of immigrants who came from different countries with different cultures. The Statue of Liberty is a symbol of the freedom they will find in the United States.

Greetings from CENTRAL SOUTH AMERICA

Let's continue on our journey by flying south into Central and South America. Here, we find thick, green rain forests and the highest waterfall in the world! Every so often, we see ancient structures built thousands of years ago. We also cross over the Andes Mountains. It's the world's longest mountain range. At the cold southern

tip of the continent are penguins!

In the past, huge rain forests and mountains have separated cultures here. Many people still follow the same traditions as their ancestors, or family members who came before them. Song, dance, art, and food also play big roles. The people of this region love to celebrate life!

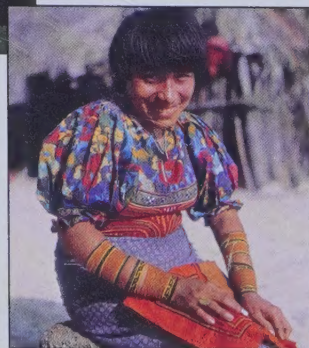


Central America

← **The ancient city of Tikal in Guatemala** was once a center of culture for the Maya. Today, several pyramids, a palace, and a ball court still remain standing. People come to visit these landmarks, or historic buildings.

→ **The Kuna people in Panama** know how to sew! They create molas, or panels of fabric with patterns and images sewn into them. Mola art might

look like an old tradition, but it only began when Kuna women started to buy yarn from modern stores. Molas include both traditional and modern designs.



WORLD AMERICA

Guatemala

Panama

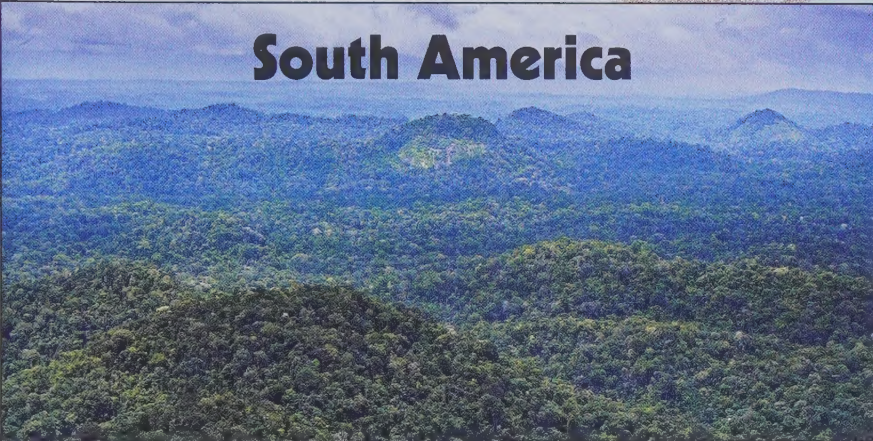
Venezuela

Amazon
Rain Forest

Brazil



South America



← The Amazon Rain Forest covers about one-third of South America. It is home to many different groups of people. It also provides food and a source of jobs for many cultures across the continent.



↑ Food in Venezuela is full of flavor! Some sandwiches are very sweet. The yo-yo sandwich uses two fried plantain slices [a type of banana] instead of bread, with cheese in between.



The people of Central and South America have European, African, and native backgrounds. We can see this mix of culture in the music and dance in this part

of the world. In Brazil, the lively samba dance is part of a yearly festival called Carnival. The samba dance comes from Portuguese, African, and native traditions.

Greetings from EUROPE



Next stop, Europe! Imagine that your plane is getting ready to land in Rome, Italy. You're excited to visit its many ancient buildings and wonder what other architecture and art you'll see.

Rome is actually a great place to start. The culture of Europe has its roots in ancient Rome and Greece. These two European civilizations existed thousands of years ago. They introduced many new ideas in subjects like art and science. Later, the Renaissance (REN-uh-sahnss) took place in Europe. This was an important time period for literature, art, and music.

Today, European cultures still focus a lot on the arts. Each culture has developed along with its country's history. And each country's culture changes over time, as its people change.

Europe



↑ You can see the dome of St. Peter's Basilica, or church, from miles away. Nearby is the Sistine Chapel. Inside, the Italian

artist Michelangelo painted the ceiling with scenes from the Bible, the holy book of Christianity.



⚡ People listen to folk songs to remind them of the history of their culture. In Slovakia, folk songs are not just performed in festivals. They are also a big part of daily life.

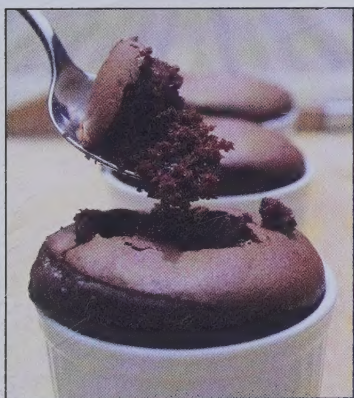




← The dirndl is a type of everyday dress that has been worn in Austria for many years. Today, it is still worn in some rural, or country, areas. Women also wear it for special occasions and traditional festivals.



↑ Folktales and fairy tales are stories that are passed from one generation to the next. *Grimm's Fairy Tales* were written in Germany 200 years ago. They are still a part of German culture (and many other cultures!) today.



↑ The French make delicious desserts that are known around the world. A soufflé (soo-FLAY) is a puffy dessert made out of baked egg. There are many types of soufflés, including chocolate!



Christmas is big in Denmark! Every November, Christmas markets open in cities, towns, and even the country's castles.

HELLO FROM AROUND



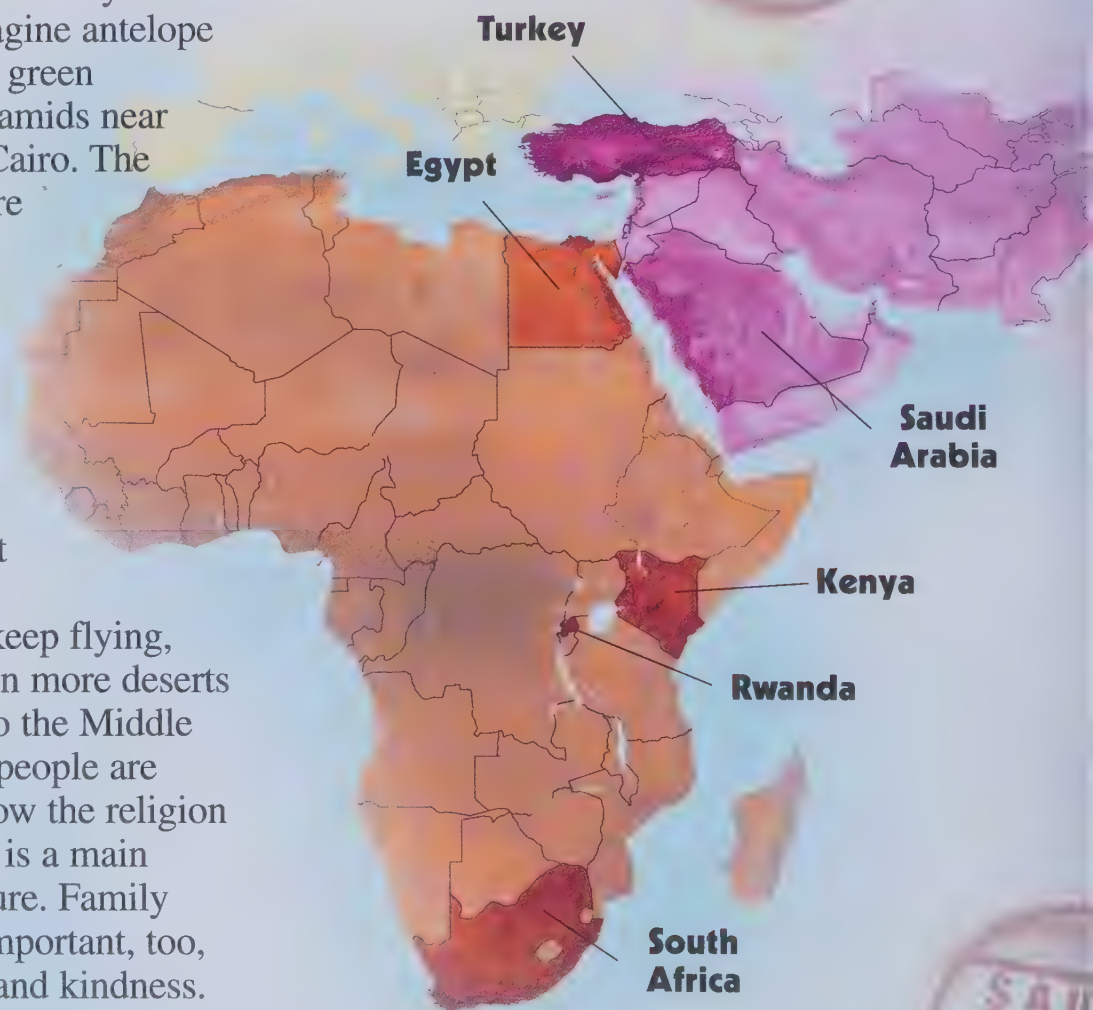
THE WORLD



Greetings from AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

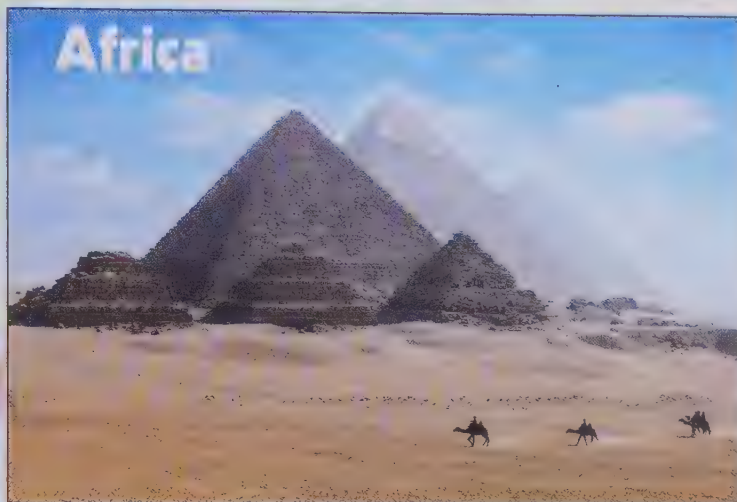
Now picture yourself on your way to Africa. Imagine antelope running across the green savanna or the pyramids near the desert city of Cairo. The people of Africa are as different as the land. You'll have the opportunity, or chance, to experience hundreds of African languages and many different religions.

If you were to keep flying, you would see even more deserts as you crossed into the Middle East. There, most people are Muslims who follow the religion of Islam. Religion is a main focus of their culture. Family and children are important, too, as well as loyalty and kindness.



THE

EGYPT



↑ The people of ancient Egypt showed modern people a thing or two about architecture! They built the pyramids. The pyramids were constructed thousands of years ago without modern tools.

↓ One way people can express their culture is through movement. In Rwanda, men perform the Intore, or Dance of Heroes. They dance with spears as if they are warriors celebrating a victory in battle.

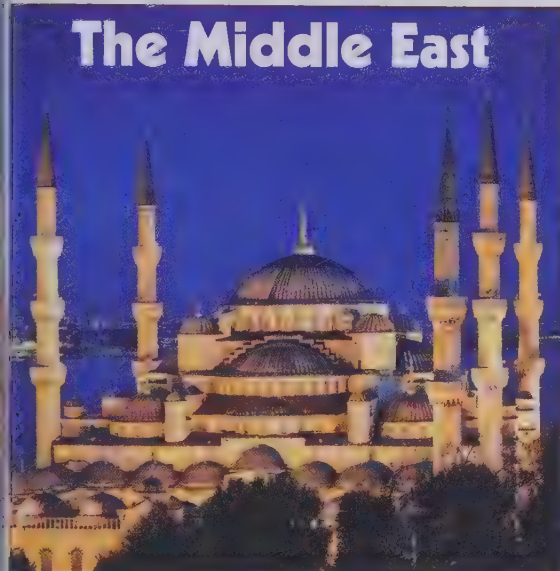


↑ Crafts are another way people can express their culture. In South Africa, some beads and bead jewelry have special meanings. Sometimes they are worn for good luck. They can also be worn for special events, such as the birth of a child.

↓ Many people of the Swahili culture in Kenya are Muslims. They wear traditional clothing on religious days. Women wear long black dresses and cover their heads. They might also wear veils to cover their faces.



The Middle East



↑ The Blue Mosque is a place of worship for Muslims in Turkey. It received its name from the thousands of blue tiles inside it. The grand look of the mosque helps to show the importance of religion in the Middle East.



← Saudi Arabia is a desert country. The men wear *ghutras*, or square scarves, over their heads. They can use the long ends of the ghutra to cover their faces during sandstorms.

Greetings from ASIA

Finally, after crossing wide-open land and the tallest mountains in the world, we find ourselves in Asia, the last stop on our journey. Asia is the world's largest continent, and it also has the most people living in it. Many different cultures are here, yet Asians still share some customs and beliefs.

Many Asians work hard to achieve their goals. They love their countries and try to make their families and leaders proud. They like to have fun, too! They have many different celebrations and festivals throughout the year.



↑ **Some parts of China** have been growing rice for thousands of years. Many Chinese meals include rice.

↓ **In Japan, buildings** and other structures often blend in with nature. This shrine, or holy place, was built on the island of

Itsukushima (it-soo-koo-SHEE-mah). It is made of wood and has many openings to allow air to move through it.



→ **The emperor** Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal in India as a memorial to his wife who died. The building is so complicated and has so many details that it took 22 years to build.



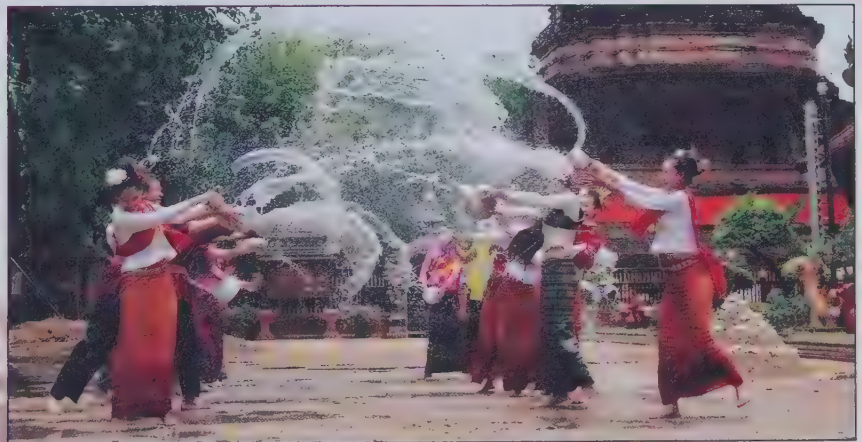


↓ **The Vietnamese** *nón lá* hat can be used in several ways. People can wear it for protection from the sun and rain while working in the fields. They can also turn the hat over and use it as a basket.



Teachers open the door; you enter by yourself.

A proverb is a saying that has a lesson or message.
What do you think this Chinese proverb means?



↖ **Many people in Cambodia and other Asian countries follow the teachings of Buddha. Buddhists are taught to be kind, unselfish, and patient. People pray at Buddhist temples like this one.**

↑ **The New Year in Thailand is called Songkran. It means "to move" or "to change place." Songkran is in April, when it is very hot in Thailand. People celebrate by throwing cool water on one another.**



CELEBRATING CULTURE

Welcome home! Your trip probably gave you a lot to think about. Our global community has so many cultures, and each has so many things to celebrate.

Now think about the people you know in your own community. What language do they speak? What are their beliefs and values? Think about how your friends and neighbors express their own cultural identity, the collection of traits that is common within in a culture.

As you continue to meet people from different cultures, remember that the world would be very boring if we were all the same. Celebrate the things you have in common, and celebrate your differences, too!



↑ **Ibtihaj Muhammad** is a fencer. She competed for the U.S. team at the Olympics in 2016. Muhammad is Muslim and wears a hijab, a traditional head covering. She is proud to express her culture and beliefs.



Culture in Your Community

Different cultures are all around you! There are many ways to learn about cultures in your community.

- Go to a parade that celebrates a culture.
- Eat at a restaurant that has food from another culture.
- Visit a cultural festival in your neighborhood.
- Talk to kids who are from different cultures!





↑ **Amy Tan is a** Chinese American author. Tan's parents were Chinese, but Tan was born in the United States. She celebrates her culture by writing stories about it. She uses her own experiences with her mother to write about Chinese mothers and their American-born daughters.



↑ **David Gettes uses a steel drum** to celebrate the music of Trinidad, an island off of South America. As a boy, Gettes fell in love with the lively, light sound of the steel drum. Now, he is part of the Trinidad North Steel Band.

“I don’t want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the culture of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible.”

– Mohandas Gandhi

Gandhi was a peaceful leader of India’s independence from British rule. What do you think he meant when he said this?



Activities

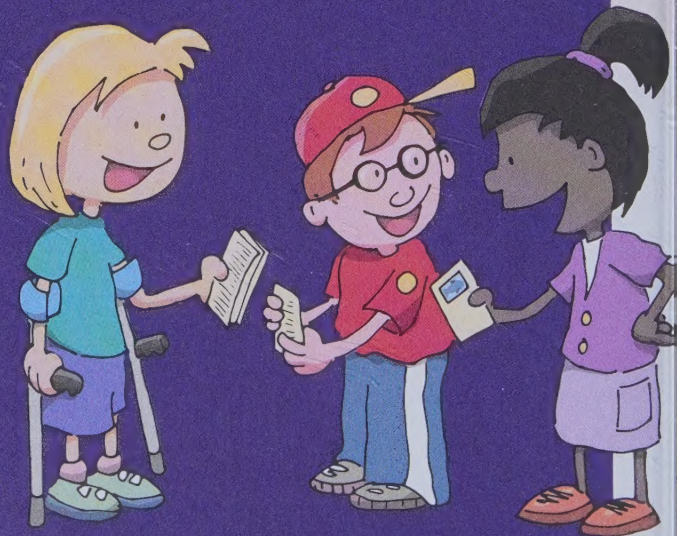
DESIGN CLOTHING

You read about cultures around the world in this magazine. Which culture is yours? Which cultures are part of your community? Pick a culture you're familiar with – either yours or one in your community. Design and draw an article of clothing that has symbols of the culture. Write a caption that describes the meaning of the symbols in your design.



CREATE TRADING CARDS

Suppose you work for a company that makes trading cards. You have been asked to create cultural trading cards. Look through the magazine and choose a culture that interests you. Use index cards to make several trading cards connected to that culture. Design and draw a symbol of the culture on one side of each card. Write an interesting fact about the culture on the other side. Then, have fun trading cards with your classmates.

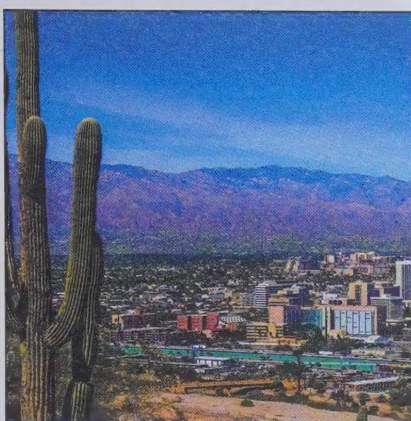


MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH THESE RELATED TITLES



Ancient Civilizations

Buried were bones, coins, pots, and many other objects, all about 1,500 years old – the remains of an ancient civilization. But not the oldest. This is your chance to learn about people and places dating back 5,000 years and more. What tools did they invent? How did they get food? What structures did they build – and how? The answers are here.



Communities

Which community has an average winter temperature of 74.5°F? Of –4.5°F? Which city gets only about 12 inches of rain a year? What's a ghost town? What happens to create them? You'll find the answers here, and so much more, like how our communities are connected to communities in Italy, Thailand, India, and Brazil – and even what future communities might look like.



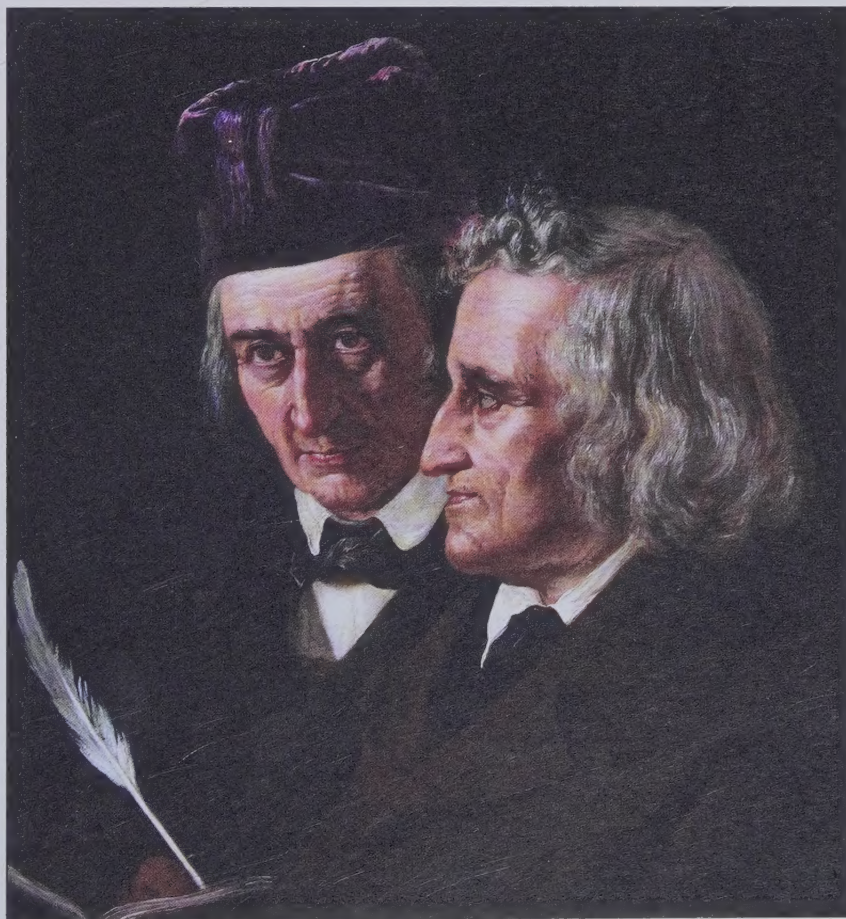
The First People

Picture how North America looked over 500 years ago. Take away the towns and cities. Take away the buildings and highways. Now, let's meet the first Americans, the American Indians. Discover how American Indians adapted their way of life based on the different environments they lived in, and how their lives changed once European settlers arrived.



LEARN MORE ONLINE!

- From Canada and Venezuela to Japan and Australia, discover how varied cultural traditions around the world are. Find out how local environments can play a role in some of those traditions.
- Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were two brothers. They were born in the late 1700s in Germany. The brothers spent most of their lives researching German folk tales. Learn online about some of the notable stories they published!



KIDS DISCOVER

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GRADE 3 TITLES

Mapping Our World

Communities

U.S. Geography

People and the Environment

Protecting Resources

Communities Change

Amazing Inventions

Ancient Civilizations

The First People

Settling the Land

Role of Citizens

How America Works

America: Heritage and
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**Culture: Expressions
Around the World**

Producers and Consumers

Saving and Spending

On the Cover: Japanese girl in traditional dress. **Shutterstock:**
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p.5 top left (Day of the Dead); Emmanuel LATTES: p.5 bottom center
(Oaxacan wood animal sculpture); frans lemmens: p.3 bottom right
(Hindu priest); Henry Georgi: p.4 bottom right (Inuit); imageBROKER: p.9

center left (dirndl); Judy Bellah: pp.16–17 (Chinese New Year dragon); Ken
Welsh: p.6 bottom right (Kuna Indian woman); Kyoko Uchida: p.7 bottom
left (Venezuelan Arepas); Peter Horree: p.19 bottom (Jacob and Wilhelm
Grimm); Prisma by Dukas Presseagentur GmbH: p.5 bottom left (Cinco de
Mayo dancers); Pulsar Imagens: p.7 center left (Amazon Rain Forest); Sasa
Huzjak: p.2 bottom left (Argentine dancers); Tom Pepeira/Iconotec: p.13
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National Park); dszc: p.19 top center (Tucson); duncan1890: p.9 top right
(Little Red Riding Hood); Grigory Fedyukovich: p.15 bottom left (Buddhist
temple); hwanana: p.15 center right (Songkran festival); JohnnyGreig: p.13
bottom left (Arab man); kali9: p.16 center left (kids at park); Korkusung:
pp.14–15 center (shrine on Itsukushima); LOVE_LIFE: p.9 bottom left
(soufflé); markgoddard: p.17 top center (Trinidad North Steel Band);
MichalLudwiczak: p.8 top right (St. Peter's Basilica); Nikada: p.13 center
left (Blue Mosque); simonbradfield: p.3 top (Eiffel Tower); sofiaeworld: p.14
bottom left (Kung Pao chicken); somchaisom: p.14 bottom right (Taj Mahal);
stu99: p.17 center right (St. Patrick's Day); ugrhan: p.13 top right (Great
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sheets). **Shutterstock:** asantosg: pp.10–11 (children from Africa), pp.10–
11 (children from Asia and Oceania set 1), pp.10–11 (children from Asia
and Oceania set 2), pp.10–11 (children from Europe set 2), pp.10–11
(children from North and South America), pp.10–11 (children from Europe
set 1); eatcute: p.18 top (Chinese hat); FamVeld: p.17 center (kids at Italian
restaurant); Jeff Whyte: p.4 bottom left (Canadian hockey players); PnPy:
p.5 bottom right (Statue of Liberty); RPBaiao: p.9 bottom right (Christmas
market in Copenhagen).

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